

Message Text

SECRET

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73

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA: RHMILLER: COS

APPROVED BY EA: RHMILLER

EA: PHABIB

S/S-O: DMACK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

S E C R E T STATE 153540 TOSEC 050028

EXDIS (MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, LA, US

SUBJECT: RENEWAL OF HARRASSMENT IN LAOS

REF: VIENTIANE 4598, 4604, 4603, ETAL

1. IF HARASSMENT AGAINST EMBASSY CONTINUES YOU SHOULD SEE SOUVANNA AND TOP FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL AVAILABLE AND TELL THEM THAT UNLESS ALL HARASSMENT AGAINST AMERICANS CEASES IMMEDIATELY, IT WILL RAISE THE QUESTION OF WHETHER WE WILL HAVE TO CLOSE THE MISSION AND WITHDRAW ALL AMERICAN PERSONNEL. YOU SHOULD NOT RPT NOT CHARACTERIZE THIS POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT AS A BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, BUT ONLY AS THE CLOSING OF THE MISSION DUE TO ITS INABILITY TO FUNCTION NORMALLY. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT WE HAVE TRIED TO ACCOMMODATE TO EVERY LEGITIMATE AND OFFICIAL PGNU DEMAND, BUT THAT WE CANNOT TOLERATE CONTINUING WILLFUL HARASSMENT AND INTERFERENCE DIRECTED AGAINST THE EMBASSY IN DISREGARD

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OF ALL NORMAL INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE. YOU SHOULD

MAKE CLEAR THAT YOU ARE SPEAKING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS.

2. FYI: WE HAVE IN MIND AUTHORIZING YOU TO CLOSE THE MISSION, WITHDRAW ALL PERSONNEL BY USE OF MISSION OR COMMERCIAL MEANS AS FEASIBLE, AND TO ADVISE ALL NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS TO LEAVE WHENEVER IN YOUR JUDGMENT HARASSMENT REACHES INTOLERABLE LIMITS FROM STANDPOINT OF USG DIGNITY OR OF ENDANGERING U.S. CITIZENS. HOWEVER, YOU ARE NOT REPEAT NOT TO CLOSE THE POST AND WITHDRAW ALL PERSONNEL WITHOUT SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION FROM WASHINGTON. IF IN YOUR JUDGMENT, THE SITUATION REACHES THAT STAGE, YOU SHOULD SUBMIT YOUR URGENT RECOMMENDATIONS. END FYI. INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, DIPLOMATIC MISSION CLOSING, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLICE PROTECTION RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE153540
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RHMILLER: COS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750225-0612
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975064/aaaaadmi.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 VIENTIANE 4598, 75 4604, 75 4603
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <21 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RENEWAL OF HARRASSMENT IN LAOS
TAGS: AEMR, PFOR, LA, US, PGNU, (SOUVANNA PHOUMA)
To: VIENTIANE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006